

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2326

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, CSCE, UR, US
SUBJECT: CRACKDOWN AGAINST SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

REF: MOSCOW 2156

1. SUMMARY. DURING HIS FEBRUARY 17 VISIT TO EMBASSY, SAKHAROV INFORMED US OF RECENT HARASSMENT DIRECTED AGAINST HIS STEP-DAUGHTER AND HER HUSBAND. SAKHAROV ALSO PROVIDED NEW INFORMATION ABOUT THE HARASSMENT OF TURCHIN AND THE ARREST OF UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT OLEKSA TIKHIY. END SUMMARY.

2. SAKHAROV TOLD US THAT HIS STEP-DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND, YEFREM V. YANKELEVICH. WAS CALLED IN FOR QUESTIONING BY THE MOSCOW PROCURACY FEBRUARY 17. YANKELEVICH REPORTEDLY WAS TOLD THAT SAMIZDAT MATERIAL WRITTEN BY HIM WAS DISCOVERED DURING A SEARCH OF A DISSIDENT NAMED RUPTSOV (WE DO NOT KNOW RUPTSOV; SAKHAROV SAID RUPTSOV HAD BEEN SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING BY THE PROCURACY ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS AND INDEED HAD IN HIS APARTMENT A NUMBER OF SAMIZDAT ITEMS, INCLUDING WORKS BY SAKHAROV AND SOLZHENITSYN). YANKELEVICH WAS ASKED WHAT HE KNEW ABOUT THE PUBLICATION "KHRONIKA," AND HOW A MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN BY YANKELEVICH MADE ITS WAY INTO THAT PUBLICATION. HE REFUSED TO ANSWER. SAKHAROV NOTED
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THAT YANKELEVICH HAD BEEN HARASSED ON PREVIOUS OCASSIONS, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT YANKELEVICH HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY CONNECTED WITH A POLITICAL MATTER.

3. SAKHAROV SAID HE WAS MUCH MORE CONCERNED OVER THE SITUATION OF HIS STEP-DAUGHTER, TAT'YANA YANKELEVICH. UNKNOWN TO SAKHAROV, IN OCTOBER 1974 TAT'YANA WAS PER-

SUADED BY HER MOTHER-IN-LAW (I.E., YEFREM YANKELEVICH'S MOTHER) TO SIGN UP FOR A MENIAL JOB AT A CHEMICAL FACTORY IN WHICH THE MOTHER-IN-LAW WAS EMPLOYED. IN FACT, OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE FACTORY PERFORMED WORK TAT'YANA WAS SUPPOSED TO DO (CLEANING LABORATORY EQUIPMENT) AND SHARED TAT'YANA'S SALARY. IN ADDITION, TAT'YANA'S MOTHER-IN-LAW ARRANGED FOR HER TO DO SOME SCIENTIFIC TRANSLATIONS FOR THE FACTORY, FOR WHICH TAT'YANA WAS ILLEGALLY PAID "ON THE SIDE."

4. THE AUTHORITIES SOMEHOW FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS ARRANGEMENT LATE LAST YEAR, SAKHAROV CONTINUED. THE MOTHER-IN-LAW WAS FIRED IN DECEMBER. ON FEBRUARY 3 OF THIS YEAR TAT'YANA WAS SUMMONED TO THE PROCURACY AND QUESTIONED ABOUT THE MATTER. ARRANGEMENTS OF THIS SORT ARE COMMON THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET ECONOMY, SAKHAROV SAID. BUT THEY ARE ILLEGAL AND INDEED ARE PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT. TAT'YANA SIMPLY DID NOT REALIZE WHAT SHE WAS DOING AND ENTERED INTO THE ARRANGEMENT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH HER MOTHER-IN-LAW. "THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO," HE SAID, "SHE IS GUILTY," AND OTHER SOVIET CITIZENS HAVE BEEN SEVERELY PUNISHED FOR EXACTLY THE SAME THING.

5. REGARDING THE FEBRUARY 14 HARASSMENT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL LEADER VALENTIN TURCHIN, (REFTEL), SAKHAROV NOTED THAT FEBRUARY 14 WAS TURCHIN'S BIRTHDAY, AND FRIENDS , INCLUDING SAKHAROV AND HIS WIFE, HAD GATHERED AT TURCHIN'S APARTMENT FOR A CELEBRATION. EVERYONE BECAME CONCERNED AT TURCHIN'S DELAY IN RETURNING HOME; THEN CAME

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A MESSAGED TELEPHONED ANONYMOUSLY TO A NEIGHBOR (TURCHIN'S TELEPHONE HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED FOR MONTHS) THAT TURCHIN "HAD BEEN TAKEN TO LEFORTOVE" (THE MOSCOW PRISON WHERE IN FACT TURCHIN WAS DRIVEN, AS PART OF THE KGB SCARE TACTICS AGAINST HIM THAT EVENING). MRS. TURCHIN NATURALLY WAS EXTREMELY UPSET BY THIS MESSAGE, AS WERE THE GUESTS AT HER APARTMENT.

6. SAKHAROV COMMENTED THAT MEMBER OF THE ORLOV GROUP'S UKRAINIAN BRANCH OLEKSA TIKHIY HAD BEEN ARRESTED AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS UKRAINIAN GROUP CHAIRMAN RUDENKO (FEBRUARY 5). THE CASE AGAINST TIKHIY AND RUDENKO OSTENSIBLY CONCERNES A REVOLVER ALLEGEDLY FOUND DURING A SEARCH OF TIKHIY'S APARTMENT. SAKHAROV NOTED THAT IT WAS STILL UNCLEAR WHETHER TIKHIY IN FACT POSSESSED A WORLD WAR TWO REVOLVER (AS A MEMENTO) OR WHETHER THE AUTHORITIES PLANTED ONE.

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